

Resolution of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Transportation Reauthorization

WHEREAS, The Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century, authorizing federal funding for highway and transit programs, expired on September 30, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Congress has not yet passed a well-funded six-year reauthorization bill; and

WHEREAS, the last extension funds transportation projects through September 24, 2004, nearly the end of the federal fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) develop their long range plans and Transportation Improvement Programs based on the expectation that predictable funding will be distributed for core programs, as has consistently been done in the first four TEA-21 extensions; and

WHEREAS, ongoing extensions impede quality planning; and

WHEREAS, after the 2000 census, 46 new MPOs were created without additional funds distributed to MPOs;

NOW, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) urges Congress to promptly pass either a multi-year fully funded bill or a one-year extension, bearing in mind the needs of MPOs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that money in the extension should be distributed by formula to core programs and earmarks should be deferred until reauthorization legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that core program funding should be spent for its intended purpose and not flexed into other areas, particularly CMAQ and STP suballocated to TMAs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Administration take corrective action in order to ensure that the calculation for the allocation of FHWA metropolitan planning (PL) funds and urban attributable suballocated funds includes the minimum guarantee amount for the FY 2005 apportionment, whether a multi-year bill or a one-year extension is passed.